

## Logistics

Illinois is a natural for warehousing and distribution facilities. Located at the center of the nation with excellent transportation infrastructure, Illinois is a cost-effective location for storing and distributing products regionally, nationally and internationally. In fact, Fortune 500 companies operate nearly 300 distribution centers in Illinois.

With over 11,973 public warehousing facilities, readily available sites or buildings, and a wide array of terminals, freight forwarders and transportation companies, Illinois offers businesses the ability to quickly meet their long- or short-range distribution needs.

Illinois boasts two of the nation's largest rail gateways: Chicago, the nation's primary rail gateway, and East St. Louis. More than fifty railroads provide service to every corner of the nation from Illinois.

The recent addition of the Union Pacific's new Global III Intermodal Facility in Rochelle is the industry's finest state-of-the-art terminal. This new facility offers customers multiple business advantages, including direct interstate highway routes with easy access to major east-west and north-south markets, the efficient interchange of shipments to and from rail connections, and expedited operations of over 25 trains and 3,000 containers daily.

Illinois has more than 2,100 miles of interstate highway - more than all but two other states. Three coast-to-coast interstates (I-80, I-90 and I-70) pass through Illinois. Major east/west/north/south interchanges are located at more than a dozen locations. An additional 16,300 miles of state highways augment the interstate system.

Illinois is among the top states in total value of truck shipments with \$857.6 billion and is ranked number four in value of shipments originating in the state with \$435.7 billion worth of goods shipped.

Illinois has the second largest airport system in the country with 137 airports (83 public and 54 private), 270 heliports and over 840 aviation facilities. This means that an airport capable of handling business jets serves virtually every city with a population above 30,000. The

crown jewel is Chicago's O'Hare International Airport, one of the world's busiest airports. In 2010, 1.6 million tons of cargo and 56.6 million travelers passed through O'Hare Airport.

Illinois' waterways also contribute to the state's superiority in warehousing and distribution. Illinois has 1,118 miles of navigable waterways that provide the state with a direct link between the Atlantic Ocean (through the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway) and the Gulf of Mexico. The significance of the Illinois waterways cannot be underestimated. They function as cost-effective highways to move Illinois products to consumers around the globe.

The Port of Chicago remains the link between the inland-river system, the Great Lakes and the global marketplace. The Port offers shippers 2 large multi-ship facilities. The port is also served by 12 railroads and has direct access to Interstates 90 and 94. Twelve other port districts are located along Illinois Rivers. The Illinois International Port District in Chicago and the Tri-City Regional Port District near St. Louis are Foreign Trade Zones, and there are also Foreign Trade Zones in Rockford, Peoria, the Quad Cities and Lawrenceville.

# Logistics in Illinois

## Transportation and Warehousing in Illinois

Industry	Establishments	Employment
Air transportation	284	32,330
Water transportation	77	2,074
Truck transportation	8,331	62,597
General freight trucking	6,091	48,517
Specialized freight trucking	2,240	14,080
Freight transportation arrangement	1,146	14,681
Couriers and express delivery services	326	14,473
Warehousing and storage	644	41,860

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2010

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